of Passport Offices all over the country come under the administrative control of the Central Passport Organisation which is a subordinate office of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Both in the M.E.A. and in Passport Offices, promotions in Group 'D' and 'C, posts are given depending upon the availability of vacancies in each Group in respective cadres. Promotions of group D&C employees in the passport offices have been given subjece to availability of vacancies.

(d) Not applicable.

Visit of Uzbekistan President to India

1041. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in his recent visit to India Uzbekistan's President pledged full support to India on its agenda for economical development;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what follow-up action Government are contemplating to obtain the maximum positive results out of the talks held between the Uzbekistan President and Indian leaders in thier regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During his meetings with PM and the Finance & Commerce Ministers Uzbek President Karimov expressed his admiration for the success achieved by India in its economic liberalisation programme. Similar sentiments were expressed by him during his meetings with the Indian business community organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

(c) The Indian Government has offered to share our experience in liberalisation of the economy and managing the transition from the planned to the free market economy. India has offered training to Uzbek nationals for this purpose. Under our ITEC programme Uzbek nationals are being trained in banking, foreign trade, diplomacy etc. The Indian Government has also offered to send its experts to Uzbekistan.

U.N.A.'s stand over N.P.T.

1042. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noted news reports that U.S. will treat India and Pakistan equally on N.P.T.;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether our viewpoint is being put across to other countries effectively; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Government has seen report submitted by President Clinton to the US Congress on 8th February 1994 titled "Progress Towards Regional Non Proliferation in South Asia" which states that US objective in South Asia is "first to cap then reduce and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery."

(b) Government remains committed to non-proliferation and has indicated willingness to work constructively with all like minded States for achieving genuine non-proliferation through disarmament agreements that are comprehensive in scope, universal in nature and non-discriminatory in character.

(c) and (d) In addition to participating in multilateral disarmament fora, Government has also undertaken bilateral discussions on disarmament related issues with a number of countries in order to have a frank exchange of views and convey our principle and consistent stand on the NPT.

China's Statement over freedom of Kashmir

1043. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in Hindi newspaper 'Hindustan' dated 5th January 1994 captioned "China will not accept the freedom of Kashmir" ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this matter stating the policy to be adopted by Government for further negotiations between India and Pakistan, India and China and its effect on Indo-China relations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and will remain so. This consistent position of Government is well known to both China and Pakistan. Government are committed to resolving all differences with Pakistan including issues related to Jammu and Kashmir peacefully and through bilateral negotiations, in accordance with the Simla Agreement. Government have consistently raised with China the question of Pakistani interference in the internal affairs of the country, including Jammu & Kashmir. Government are sincerely committed to further developing friendly, mutually beneficial and good neighbourly relations with China.

चकमा लोगों के जान-माल की सुरक्षा

1044. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी :**

श्री ओ० राजगोपाल :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 23 जनवरी, 1994 को पावत्य चटगांव जन सहमति समिति और बंगलादेश की चटगांव पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के मामलों की समिति के बीच होने वाली बैठक अचानक स्थगित कर दी गयी ;

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार ने बंगलादेश सरकार से इन चकमाओं के जान-माल की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था को सुनिश्चित किया है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि बंगलादेश में चकमा परिषद् का भू-भाग 5,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर से घट कर अब 440 वर्ग किलोमीटर हो गया है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) हमने इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं कि 23 जनवरी, 1994 के लिए निर्धारित उक्त बैठक नहीं हुई।

(ख) बंगलादेश के संचार मंत्री तथा सी० एच० टी० से सम्बद्ध समिति के अध्यक्ष कर्नल औली अहमद ने 24 जनवरी, 1994 को जारी एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में अपनी सरकार की यह बचनबद्धता दोहरायी कि वह चकमा शरणार्थियों को पूरी सुरक्षा तथा हिफाजत" के साथ वापस बुलाएगी। उन्होंने इस आश्वासन की भी पुनः पुष्टि की कि इन शरणार्थियो को उनके घर तथा उनकी जायज सम्पत्तियां वापस दी जाएगी ताकि वे सम्मानपूर्वक रह सकें।

(ग) इस पहलू के संबंध में कोई सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है और बहरहाल यह बंगलादेश का एक आन्तरिक मामला है।

Pak Nuclear Programme runs into rough weather

1045. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 2nd January, 1994 under the caption "Pak Nuclear programme runs into rough weather" and Pakistan is now trying to procure, develop and control mechanism from other countries; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in the international forum to stop Pakistan from developing a nuclear device ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government has seen the press report. Pakistan is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Export controls on nuclear related items and technologies are exercised by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). India is not a member of the NSG. However, Government in its bilateral talks with other